

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, AUGUST 28, 2017 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Horne opened the meeting by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Kittel, Ard, Jackson, Montello, Volkert and Zajkowski

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Montello moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

VFW Request

There was considerable discussion regarding the request from the VFW to construct a building in Freedom Park. A development agreement will need to be drafted for this project if approved. Alderman Montello moved to grant approval to the VFW to build on land identified in Freedom Park and arrangements with the City to be made at a later date, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried. Alderman Ard and Jackson voted no.

Resolution Opposing AB 399, SB 309

This resolution was drafted in opposition to Assembly Bill 399 and Senate Bill 309 in response to a property owner in the Town of Somerset who is unable to operate an event center on their property in the Lower St. Croix Riverway. The proposed bills would relieve municipalities of local control. Mike Darrow suggested a third option for the Council to consider rather than to approve or deny the proposed resolution. Mike's wording is as follows: The City of New Richmond has been made aware of AB 399, SB 309. After discussion with the Mayor and City Council, the Council understands the significance of each of these Bills. While these bills impact municipalities, the Council moves to direct citizen feedback on each of these bills to our State Representatives. No motion was made to discuss the resolution opposing AB 399 and SB 309.

Resolution Opposing AB 361

Alderman Montello moved to discuss the resolution opposing Assembly Bill 361 which would require a referendum for any new or existing wheel tax, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried. Alderman Zajkowski move to use Mike Darrow's wording rather than approve or deny the resolution with the addition of email addresses for our representatives. Mike's wording is as follows: The City of New Richmond has been made aware of AB 361. After discussion with the Mayor and City Council, the Council understands the significance of each of these Bills. While these bills impact municipalities, the Council moves to direct citizen feedback on each of these bills to our State Representatives: Sheila Harsdorf – sen.harsdorf@legis.state.wi.us and Rob Stafsholt – rep.stafsholt@legis.wisconsin.gov, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried. Alderman Ard voted no.

Presentation of Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mike Darrow thanked Rae Ann Ailts and staff for their work on this plan. Rae Ann facilitated an exercise for Council members to begin prioritizing the use of public funds. The list consists of economic development; preserving the past, engaging the present and ensuring the future; fiscal responsibility; and public/private partnerships. The next steps will be a public engagement process, finding sources and uses of funds, a financial impact analysis, and finally adoption of the plan in early 2018.

Presentation of First Draft of 2018 Budget

Mike Darrow thanked Kim Hennings and Craig Yehlik for leading the budget presentation. Staffing is a concern for this budget cycle including retaining and attracting staff to meet the growing expectations for our community. The proposal includes maintaining the employee benefits package into 2018 and acknowledging performance of employees through wage increases. Mayor Horne asked that supervisors present their own budgets so the Council can ask questions as they present. Jim VanderWyst presented the Fire Department budget. Jeremiah Wendt presented the Public Works budget. Council members asked to have the percentage of increase or decrease listed on the budget sheets. The rest of the supervisors will discuss their budgets at the work session in September. Craig Yehlik and Kim Hennings continued with the 2018 budget presentation which includes hiring a full-time patrol officer, a full-time public works position, a limited term airport maintenance person, a part-time custodian, a full-time planner, a full-time management analyst, a full-time electrical lineman, adding 10 hours per week for fire department maintenance and continue with the contracted electrical inspector. Discussion followed.

Communications and Miscellaneous

Mayor Horne showed everyone the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for the John Doar History Trail. He was proud of the effort put into the celebration over the weekend for the trail opening. Craig Kittel thanked Fred for his presentation. There were lots of positive comments from the Doar Family. Anyone interested in attending the League Conference in October should let Tanya know before September 7, 2017.

Closed Session

Alderman Montello moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1) (c)(e) to discuss TID #6 Sale of Land; Non-Union and Union Wages and Salaries; and Review of Land Contracts pertaining to City owned parcels, seconded by Alderman Ard, and carried.

Open Session

No action was taken.

Alderman Volkert moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Tanya Batchelor
City Clerk